

Social Studies Courses

Ensuring that an appropriately prepared and endorsed teacher is assigned to teach in Michigan's classrooms is critical to student achievement. The State Board of Education (SBE) has [approved standards](#) for preparing teachers in each endorsement area.

The Social Studies (RX) is a group endorsement area, covering multiple subareas including history, political science, government/civics, economics and geography.

The Social Science (CX), Anthropology (CH), Cultural Studies (CL), and Behavioral Studies (CM) have been discontinued for many years. Discontinued endorsements are not removed from teaching certificates. School districts are free to assign any teacher to these courses who provides evidence of professional development and holds a certificate for the grade level at which these courses are offered upon. The Sociology (CF) endorsement is being [discontinued](#) beginning with 2017 summer programs and the 2017-2018 school year and will no longer be required to teach sociology courses.

The Social Science (CX) endorsement includes all the same subareas as the Social Studies (RX) as well as the areas of psychology, sociology, anthropology, behavioral studies and cultural studies. The Social Studies (RX) endorsed teacher cannot be assigned to teach psychology. The Psychology (CE) endorsement remains in place and is required with the CX is not available.

Assignments in the specific subareas of social studies or social sciences can also be taught by holders of the specific subarea endorsement. For example, while the Social Studies (RX) or Social Science (CX) endorsed teacher may be assigned to teach an economics course, so may a specific Economics (CA) endorsed teacher. However, the specific subarea endorsed teacher may not be assigned to teach a course covering multiple areas of social studies, e.g., the History (CC) teacher may not be assigned to teach "7th grade Social Studies". Because the social studies course covers multiple areas of social studies, the single subject area endorsed teacher has not been properly prepared.

With the implementation of the [Michigan grade level content expectations](#), confusion arose around who could be assigned to teach a "World History & Geography" or a "U.S. History & Geography" course. To determine the appropriately endorsed teacher for the assignment, it is essential to evaluate the

content of that course. A teacher may teach these courses with just a History (CC) or Geography (CB) endorsement as long as the following guidelines are met:

- If it is a history class with elements of geography embedded within it, then the teacher holding the Social Studies (RX), Social Science (CX), or History (CC) endorsement and be considered appropriately placed.
- If it is a geography course that has historical elements embedded within it, the teacher may hold the Social Studies (RX), Social Science (CX), or Geography (CB) endorsement and therefore be considered appropriately placed.
- The History (CC) or Geography (CB) endorsed teachers should be able to provide **evidence** to the district that they had supporting coursework in the other subarea of social studies (geography or history) so that the teacher has the full content knowledge needed to teach a "World History & Geography" or a "U.S. History & Geography" course.

An acceptable standard of **evidence** is either six credit hours or 90 clock hours of Professional Development in the appropriate subarea directly related to the content in the course being taught. For example, a teacher with a single discipline Geography (CB) endorsement would need six credit hours or 90 professional development clock hours of world history to teach a course that has both world history and geography content or a teacher with a single discipline History (CC) endorsement would need either six credit hours or 90 professional development clock hours of geography to teach a course that has content covering both world history and geography.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and SBE defined policy ([Michigan's Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers](#), December 6, 2005) teachers of core academic subject areas must meet the Highly Qualified (HQ) teacher requirements. All areas of social studies are specifically listed as core academic subject areas, therefore the [HQ requirements](#) do apply. The HQ requirements do not apply to the additional subareas covered by the Social Science (CX) endorsement (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology).

Both the Social Studies (RX) and Social Science (CX) endorsed teachers are certified and considered Highly Qualified for all areas of social studies if they have taken and passed the Social Studies Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC).

Additional information regarding appropriate placement of teachers can be found in the [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#) and the [Proper Placement Considerations](#) documents.